REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed 22 December 2005.

Claims 10, 13-17, 19-22, 26, 32-35, 39 and 40 have been cancelled.

New claim 49, which depends from amended claim 1, has been added.

Claims 1-9, 11-12, 18, 23-25, 27-31, 36-38 and 41-49 are currently pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 8 and 18 would be allowable if these claims were rewritten to be in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 8 and 18 have been amended accordingly. It is submitted that claims 8 and 18 are now in condition for allowance.

Compliance with U.S.C. 102 and 103

Claim 1, as amended, recites "providing a unidirectional connection between a local interface port associated with said broadcast-based network and a remote interface port associated with said connection-based network" and "setting up a point-to-multipoint virtual channel over the connection-based network, the point-to-multipoint virtual channel having a root at said remote interface port and a plurality of leaves at destination nodes in the connection-based network".

Claim 36, as amended, recites "providing a unidirectional connection between a local interface port associated with said source segment of the virtual network and a first remote interface port associated with the connection-based network, and associating a multicast address with said first remote interface port" and "provisioning in the connection-based network a point-to-multipoint virtual channel having a root endpoint at the first remote interface port and a plurality of leaf endpoints at a plurality of destination nodes".

Claim 41, as amended, recites "a bridge for transmitting variable sized data frames received from said first network at a local interface port to a first remote interface port, said bridge comprising a unidirectional connection between the local interface port and the first remote interface port" and "a filtering database comprising a first entry for mapping an address of said local interface port with an address of said first remote interface port for enabling

configuration of a point-to-multipoint virtual channel with a root at said bridge and a plurality of leaves each connected to one of said output interfaces".

Claim 45, as amended, recites "a local interface port connected to the first segment and a plurality of remote interface ports, each remote interface port capable of being connected to a virtual channel in the connection-based network, said first bridge providing a unidirectional connection between said local interface port and a first remote interface port" and "a point-to-multipoint virtual channel in the connection-based network, the point-to-multipoint virtual channel having a root node associated with said first remote interface port and a plurality of leaf nodes, each of the leaf nodes connected to one of the bridges corresponding to another one of the segments".

Kamo fails to disclose or suggest a method which comprises providing a unidirectional connection and setting up a point-to-multipoint virtual channel in the context of amended claims 1 and 36. Kamo also fails to disclose or suggest a bridge device comprising a unidirectional connection between a local and a first remote interface port and a filtering database which maps the address of the local interface port to the address of the first remote interface port to enable configuration of point-to-multipoint virtual channel having a root endpoint associated with the first remote interface port in the context of amended claim 41, or a virtual local area network comprising a first bridge which provides a unidirectional connection between a local and a first remote interface port and a point-to-multipoint virtual channel having a root node associated with the first remote interface port. On the contrary, Kamo explicitly discloses that packets may be transmitted in either direction between interfaces 15 and 19. Thus, Kamo teaches away from the present invention as recited in amended claims 1, 36, 41 and 45.

Furthermore, amended claim 45 additionally recites "a point-to-point virtual channel in the connection-based network, the point-to-point virtual channel connecting a second remote interface port to one of the bridges corresponding to another one of the segments". This feature also does not appear to be disclosed or suggested by the cited references in the context of amended claim 45.

The other prior art of record also does not appear to disclose or suggest the above-noted combinations of features recited in amended claims 1, 36 , 41 and 45. The Office Action mailed 22 December 2005, at page 15, states that it would have been "obvious to a person skilled in the art to incorporate the ingress and egress ports disclosed by Patra" with the system of Kamo. However, as noted above, Kamo explicitly provides for transmission of

packets in both directions between interfaces 15 and 19. Kamo even goes so far as to provide "upward" and "downward" buffers to facilitate this bidirectional communication (see paragraph [0055] of Kamo). Accordingly, there would be no motivation to combine the ingress and egress ports of Patra et al. with the system of Kamo, and even if one skilled in the art were to attempt such a combination, it is not clear how they would arrive at the present invention as recited in amended claims 1, 36, 41 and 45.
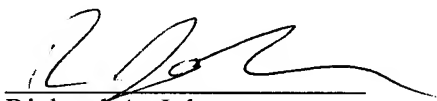
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended claims 1, 36, 41 and 45 are patentable over the cited references.

Amended claims 2-7, 9, 11-12, 23-25, 27-31 and 49, which depend from amended claim 1, as well as amended claims 37-38, 42-44 and 46-48 which respectively depend from amended claims 36, 41 and 45, are also submitted to be patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons set out above.

Also, with respect to new claim 49, none of the cited references appear to disclose or suggest a method comprising "establishing said point-to-multipoint virtual channel within said device between said remote interface port and a plurality of output interfaces based on said multicast address" and "establishing, across said connection-based network, a virtual connection between each said output interface and a respective destination node of said destination nodes". It is submitted that this combination of features further patentably distinguishes new claim 49, and claims 5-7 and 31 which depend therefrom, over the prior art.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and remarks.

Respectfully submitted,
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